



Review article

Studying the Geographical explorations of the Portuguese and the Spanish in the 15th century

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ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT



Keywords:

America
Discoveries
Colonization
Geography
Spanish
Portuguese

Article History:

Received: 04-12-2023
Accepted: 27-01-2024
Published: 30-01-2024

This article explores the dynamics of domination and subordination during the mid-15th century, marked by the Arab and Ottoman Empire's dominance in the Middle East, posing obstacles to European relations with China and India. In response, Western European nations, particularly Portugal and Spain, emerged as leaders in exploration, seeking alternative routes to bypass the challenges of the Middle East. Liberated from Muslim influence, these nations focused their efforts on discovering new sea routes to India and beyond. The narrative centers on Portuguese sailor Henry's role in planning expeditions to the Canary Islands, aiming to identify novel commercial routes for Portugal's development in Africa. Subsequently, the Spanish, influenced by Portugal's efforts, discovered new lands by employing Christopher Columbus. Columbus initially proposed his plan, "The Way to India," to the King of Portugal, but it was rejected. Turning to Spain in 1484, he secured the Queen's consent with the help of his shipbuilder brother, ultimately discovering America. Employing a descriptive-analytical research method, this article utilizes library research to delve into the historical background and explore the intricacies of European exploration during this transformative period.

Cite this article:

Nazari, M. J., Elham, M. B., & Samimi, S. (2024). Studying the Geographical explorations of the Portuguese and the Spanish in the 15th century. *Sprin Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*, 3(1), 63-70. <https://doi.org/10.55559/sjahss.v3i1.199>

1. Introduction

The real explorers and early inhabitants of the American continent were those who accepted the risk in the past ages crossed the Bering Strait and the Pacific Ocean and stepped into this land. These people were the "Red Indians of America" in the Neolithic Age, establishing amazing civilizations in the corner. And they worked hard for this land. Meanwhile, the first Europeans who set foot on American soil were the Vikings. In 982 AD, an Icelandic person named *Erik Loroj* was expelled from his homeland. He left for the west and later discovered a frozen land, which he ironically named Greenland (Momtahan, 1992, pp. 155-160).

In the 12th century, the Vikings formed a colony on the west coast of this land, and the people of this colony went to the northern regions beyond the Arctic Circle and met the first Eskimos of the region which reached the continental limits of America and occupied these areas with the residents of the region; That is, Eskimos and Indians had bloody conflicts. Christopher Columbus was born in Geneva (1451). In his youth, he met Portuguese sailors and began his voyages in the Eastern Mediterranean as a ship's crew. He about the distances of the seas, He read many books on sea voyages and the Sphericity of the earth and was informed by the memoirs of seafarers from the cities of Tiro and Phoenicia who wrote about the longitude of the world, and then based on the memoirs of Ptolemy (who proposed

a distance from Western Europe to Eastern Asia through Atlantic Ocean is very short) decided to find a way through the west to reach the land of India. Because at that time, the general opinion was that the western water route was not only the shortest but also the only water route to India (Foroghi, 2016, pp. 89-94).

After preparing the preparations for the work, including the provision of tools such as a half-hour hourglass and a compass (which was a means of measuring time and space), in 1492 he started his sea voyage to the west to visit Asia. Christopher Columbus was the first traveler who discovered the system and how to use the wind in the Atlantic Ocean. Using past experiences, he identified the presence of eastern winds in low latitudes and western winds in high latitudes. On his voyage across the Canary Islands, he sailed westward using the wind at his back. He crossed the Atlantic Ocean in thirty-three days and reached the Antilles. He traveled this route four times, thinking that the land he reached was India. On this voyage, he set foot on land near where he expected, and although he found no evidence of civilization, he remained convinced that he had found Asia, when he found the southern coasts of Cuba and Central America, He became firmer in his belief because the coast of Asia was shown as such on Ptolemy's map. When Columbus heard from the natives of Central America that there was another big ocean beyond this ocean and to the west of the land, he was sure that that ocean was the Indian Ocean. In addition, he did not know

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<https://doi.org/10.55559/sjahss.v3i1.199>

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about the Gulf Stream, as the waters must flow through a strait to the Indian Ocean.

To return to Europe, Christopher Columbus steered his ship from the northern route to the west of the Azores Islands, and using the western winds behind him, in 1495, a large amount of gold, fruit, and new plants He returned to Europe with corn and several birds. In 1502 AD. Americus Vespos from Portugal to India and on the way, Christopher Columbus crossed the Atlantic Ocean and embarked on several voyages to the west, which finally reached the coast of America and proceeded to the La Plata River. He was the first person to announce that the land he discovered was not a part of the Asian continent but a new continent. This continent was later called "Americo Vespos" after its discoverer (Niazmand, 1971, p. 177).

2. Research method

This research aims to explore the multifaceted aspects of geographical discoveries by focusing on key questions. Firstly, it delves into the causes and motivations driving exploration in Portugal and Spain, examining how these factors contributed to advancements in geographical studies. Additionally, the study seeks to provide a detailed explanation of the items and elements integral to the geographical discoveries initiated by these nations. The research also investigates the achievements resulting from Portuguese and Spanish exploration, highlighting pivotal voyages, territories, and contributions to global knowledge. Subsequently, it analyzes the timing of English and French discoveries in comparison to other European countries, unraveling the geopolitical, economic, or cultural factors influencing the timing of their explorations. Furthermore, the study explores the transition of the Spaniards and Portuguese from a spirit of discovery to colonization, investigating the motivations, strategies, and consequences of this transformation. It also assesses the role of monks and religious missionaries in geographical discoveries, examining their effectiveness and impact on exploration efforts. Lastly, the research explores the repercussions of geographical discoveries on East and West trade, scrutinizing the economic, cultural, and geopolitical consequences of newly established trade connections and routes.

3. Questions

3.1 Original question

1. Which Cause of Portugal and Spain happen to be explored for geographical studies?

3.2 Sub questions

1. Explain the causes and general motivation of the geographical discoveries which items were included?
2. Can you describe the achievements of Portuguese and Spanish geographical discoveries?
3. Why did the English and French make discoveries later than other European countries?
4. Why did the Spaniards and Portuguese turn their spirit of discovery into colonization?
5. How effective was the role of monks and religious missionaries in geographical discoveries?

4. Motivations behind geographical discoveries

We can mention the causes and factors of geographical discoveries In Europe, exploration activities that were planned from the end of the 15th century and the beginning of the 16th century, and were supported by governments and commercial companies, and for the first time, the direction and direction of these trips. The oceans were free. Therefore, the years 1492 to 1522 AD can be considered one of the most amazing and eventful

periods in human history, in 1492, Christopher Columbus discovered the American continent, and in 1497, Vasugudogama opened the sea route to India for Europeans and traveled Magellan circumnavigated the world between 1519 and 1522. In this way, the oceans, which for a long time seemed like a big and impassable barrier to human progress, became centers of work, activity, and communication, and the countries and nations of merchants and sailors along the Atlantic Ocean gradually established the superiority of Europe on earth. (Kennedy, 1991, pp. 255-263)

In the era of explorations and since the 15th century, the following causes and factors were considered the most important motivation and goal in the movement of geographical explorations: economic need; It means the existence of thoughts and beliefs such as access to Chinese silk, spices of East Indian islands, gold and silver of Central and South America, African ivory, fur and skin of North America, gold of California and Australia, and fish of polar waters; The religious factor or the efforts of Christian (Catholic) religious and evangelistic delegations and missionaries to propagate the religion of Christ; Satisfying the sense of curiosity and the spirit of adventure and speculation and seeing new lands, pristine landscapes and finally separating from everyday activities; Realizing some theories, including the existence of the Antarctic continent, the Australian continent, The existence of some wonders in the oceans, the existence of mountains and gold soils in some regions and distant lands and seeing the sources of the Nile; The expansion of possessions and the development of political space for the life of powerful countries; The political motivation or the acquisition and occupation of new lands, finding new sea routes in the oceans, such as the actions of France and England in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries in the Pacific Ocean, and the closure of the communication and trade route of European countries to the east through the Mediterranean Sea and the Middle East due to the existence of city states Genoa, Sicily, Venice and Florence and the presence of the powerful Ottoman government on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean. Therefore, in summary, it can be said that commercial, religious, political, and human curiosity factors, or a combination of them, played an important role in creating the movement of geographical explorations, especially in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries (Foroghi, 2016, pp. 89-94).

5. Influence of Calvin

Religious developments and religious reforms that took place in most European countries in the 15th century, such as the Ottoman threat, which was one of the important issues in the world of Christianity and Europe at that time, and some other factors, caused European governments to spread Christianity with the help and advice of the Pope. And spread the Catholic religion; therefore, every European country should send missionaries from among the Catholic sects to other regions. The motivations of Calvin and the whole of Christian beliefs had a profound effect on the motivation of geographical explorations, especially for the countries of Spain and Portugal. They might have been transferred to the newly discovered lands with the members of the explorers and they taught the doctrines of the church to the people of the regions that were discovered. These religious missionaries tried to control the minds of the people to make them tolerate the rule of Portugal and Spain in their country. In addition, these followers played a role as native soldiers of the Portuguese in the colonial wars. Have important and on the other hand they paid their religious and religious compensations to Spain and Portugal and had good economic growth from the point of view of religious teachings, therefore, the motivations of colonialism played an important role in the

spirit of explorations and colonization of the geography of the Spaniards and Portuguese.

6. Portuguese discoveries

With the blocking of the east-west trade route through the Mediterranean Sea and the rise of the Turks in this region, all European countries thought of reaching the east through a route that was different from the previous routes. The new era is the era when all European countries are in the process of forming a national state and each of them has internal differences to achieve this unity.

The governments of England and France, which were involved in the Hundred Years' War, were faced with a chaotic economic situation after the war. Even the British government got involved in civil wars after the Hundred Years' War, which is known as the "War of Flowers" or "Roses" in British history. In this way, the above two countries had an opportunity to seize the sea in the early stages, but no exploratory reports were found. Neighboring France to the south, the Spanish government enjoyed a convenient location in the Atlantic Ocean, but internal conflicts had led to the dispersion of political power and geographical division of this country. On the other hand, this country was facing a bigger problem in its southern part, such as Muslims and Jews. For this reason, on the eve of the new era, several states and provinces of Spain decided to achieve their internal unity by expelling the Moors (Muslims) from this area, but this required a suitable time. Only with the intervention of the Spanish government, the small Portuguese government was able to act as a pioneer of geographical exploration in the search for independent sea routes from the East. This government paid attention to these matters at the threshold of the 15th century during the era of Henry the Navigator (Henri Luna Vigator, 1460-1394), known as the navigator of the second young son of the King of Portugal. This person's great interest in the knowledge of geography and other factors provided the basic motivations for geographical discoveries. For this purpose, Henry provided an observatory or collected geographical maps, especially old manuscripts of history and geography, and paid attention to these matters. His interest in seafaring, astronomy, and studying the geographical conditions of other lands encouraged the Portuguese sailors to access the East and obtain its material spoils. The progress of Muslim knowledge and what was received from the East by Europeans could be useful in this field. Certainly, the magnetic needle and compass, the use of the solar index for directions, and also the use of polar stars, along with the creation of shipbuilding centers and the creation of libraries where this information was collected, could greatly help in marine explorations (Momtahan, 1992, pp. 155-160).

Research on ancient information about geography, orbits, meridians, and determining local positions all indicate the dominance of intellectual insight at this time. The interesting thing is that most of the Portuguese sailors were Italians, and this is because the Italians were extremely skilled at seafaring, and since they had gone to Portugal to work, they were able to play a great role in these matters. Maritime problems and lack of knowledge caused the sailors to move at a short distance from the coast and thus they first identified the west coast of Africa. About how far the continent of Africa was known in the past and whether this continent was bypassed or not. It should be said that the continent of Africa was known only between the area of Egypt (Alexandria) and the Straits of Hercules (Gibraltar). It is stated in some ancient sources that the Phoenicians gained a position in sea trade and bypassed Africa. Their travels were mostly in the area of Tire and Wasida and Palestine: but they could not achieve success in the Red Sea of India and other regions. Anyway, most of their activities have been in North Africa (Dawlatshahi, 1974,

pp. 57-59). It is worth mentioning that the problem of circumnavigating Africa dates back to the time of the Achaemenids. At that time, a person named "Scolas" who was a Greek sailor in the court of Iran took him with him to circumnavigate Africa to punish an Achaemenid prince (Zarrinkoob, 1992, p. 152).

Regarding the location of Africa, Greco-Roman geographers believe that it is surrounded by the ocean. Even the maps left by Ptolemy show the situation of West Africa incorrectly. In such a way, he placed the region of Azhi Simbara in this region, i.e. in the south of the equator, and in the desert region, he drew two rivers with a fantasy route - non-Vanjar Rivers (Deshan, 1997, p. 78).

The knowledge of Muslims was more about the eastern coast of Africa, which was noticed by them due to the commuting to and from Abyssinia. However, Europeans' knowledge of this continent was limited. In the new era, they moved to reach the east and gain material spoils, and the names they gave to this continent are quite clear: names like the Ivory Coast, the Gold Coast, and the Slave Coast. The construction of three-sided sailing ships by the Portuguese, which could move against the wind, was effective in maritime exploration, thus the Portuguese discovered the continent of Africa in 1556 AD. They reached the coast of Guinea until the death of Prince Henry in 1460. They could not go further than Sierra Leone. But since their initial movement was created, in 1471 AD to the equator a decade later, in 1482 AD. They arrived in the Congo. 1488 AD It is important because a person named "Bartelmodiaz" managed to pass the Cape of Good Hope and ten years later his compatriot Vascodegama managed to reach India and anchored at the port of Calicut, India, by crossing the Cape and the southeast coast of Africa with the guidance of an Arab sailor. (Brinton, 1980, pp. 513-515).

The arrival of Vasco da Gama in India was the beginning of the colonization of India by the Portuguese. Because their presence in the region caused the displeasure of the Muslims, for this reason, the Muslims created major obstacles in the trade and commerce of the Portuguese or the natives of the region, and even the Indian natives took some people of Vascodegama as hostages at the instigation of the Muslims. The Portuguese also retaliated and captured a group of natives and did not release their people. After their round from the coast of India, they closed it with cannons and thus for the first time the roar of the artillery heralded the beginning of the colonization of India. The first colonial government of the new age was the Portuguese. When Vascodegama was asked why he came to India, he answered with two words: "Christianity and spices" which means I came to promote Christianity and take spices with me. The goods and spices that he bought and took to Portugal with him, brought great wealth to this country, this issue caused the restlessness of other Portuguese and even Spanish sailors.

Following the Vascode Gama's travels, other personalities such as Pedro Cabral at the beginning of the 16th century AD in 1500 AD. They decided to repeat Vascodegama's movement to India. Pedro Cabral deviated from his path due to the unfavorable sea and the pressure of the sea winds on his way and deviated to the west. In such a way that he reached the land of South America and the place that is called Brazil today. He immediately ordered a ship to return to the Portuguese sea and report this exciting discovery, but at this time all the European sailors were aware of Christopher Columbus, and even some geographers believe that this person mainly did this to know. Where does Christopher Columbus's route end in the south?

The greatest representative of Portugal's colonialism is a person called "Alfonso de Albuquerque" (1515-1509). He was the first person to sow the seeds of colonialism in the East and he believed that to govern these areas, sensitive and strategic points

should be controlled. For this reason, he took possession of the Goa region on the Malabar Coast of India, the Gulf of Aden near the mouth of the Red Sea, and the Strait of Hormuz near the entrance to the Persian Gulf. He even built his colonial forts in Africa from Argonne (in the north of Mauritania) to Mumian (in Kenya). Even in the 16th century, the Portuguese went to Southeast Asia and China and established their bases in Malacca near Singapore and Macao near the Chinese mainland. They did business with the Japanese as well (Deshan, 1997, p. 78).

Albuquerque in 1515. His death had great dreams. He wanted to change the course of the Nile River and break Egypt's trade, he even wanted to exchange this holy city with Jerusalem by conquering Mecca. In addition to these regions, the Portuguese discovered Malaya, Java, Brunei, the Moluccas, and New Guinea, and traded with these regions. Along with the Portuguese colonists, he brought religious Masons such as Francis Xavierqdis, who was the leader of the Jesuit sect, to this side of the world until 1550. These leaders were able to baptize thousands of people in India, Indonesia, and even Japan. The Portuguese migrate their populations to the hot coastal lands of Africa or the densely populated areas of India. Far East did not make any effort. The only policy they adopted was to make the natives of these areas semi-Portuguese. The Portuguese developed their colonial culture by equipping them with firearms and using them in household work, etc., albeit in an incomplete manner, but they did not make any effort for direct political rule or change the socio-economic and political organization of the natives. They kept the old chiefs and the old ruling classes in their positions as they found them. Business and trade abroad depended on the special care of the sea on the one hand and the merchant community active in the homeland on the other hand. The Portuguese did not maintain the steps they had taken from the beginning in any of these matters, and in this way, they soon surrendered to their newly arrived rivals in the colonial arena (Brinton, 1980, pp. 513-515).

7. Spanish discoveries

After the publication of the news of Portugal's acquisition of India, a wave of restlessness arose in the Spanish court. In the ten years that passed from the Portuguese discoveries of Bartelmudiaz to Vasquedogama, the Spanish government tried to overcome its political problems so that the two great states of Castile and Aragon joined each other with the marriage of Queen Isabella and Ferdinand and created an independent political unit. After these actions, the main effort to expel the Moors (Muslims) from the Granada region in southern Spain began after securing the internal unity and political independence of Spain, a major effort was made to search for independent sea routes to reach the east. On the one hand, by studying the works of the past and the Hellenistic era, the issue of the Sphericity of the earth was raised at this time: it means that you can reach the east through the west, and the China Sea is connected with the Atlantic Ocean - this theory was proposed by *Toscanelli* in 1474 AD. Who published a land map in the city of Florence, Italy? On the other hand, in the same year, Christopher Coulomb's geographical sphere was quite clear in Nuremberg. Because the possible distance between Europe and Asia from the west was thought to be very small.

In the last decade of the 15th century, Christopher Columbus, who was interested in navigation, believed that the earth was spherical and provided reasons for this. He argued that when we move away from the shore, first the ship and then the sail of the ship that is on top of it disappears. So, the sea is spherical, and the farther we go from the shore, we will go down, and if we continue doing this, we will return to our original place.

Christopher Columbus first went to the Portuguese Sea, but his ideas were not accepted, and since he could not bring the Portuguese king with his proposals, in 1484 AD. At the court of an influential priest, his ideas were accepted at the court of Spain. The court that was interested in Indian goods finally accepted his ideas and finally in 1492, He was given the title of Amir al-Bahra Azm, the representative of the kingdom of the islands he discovered, as well as the monopoly of trade and other privileges. By acquiring three ships and enough tools, this person continued his journey in the summer, and 70 days later, after many problems, he reached the land and named the Guanahani Islands, which reached his shore, San Salvador, or the Holy Savior. This movement of Christopher Columbus led to the discovery of the American continent. He imagined that this place was India and he was looking for the kingdoms and kings there, and finally reached Koya and Sandomnik due to the fatigue of the road in 1493 AD. He returned to Europe and was received with great respect. Although everyone was waiting for spices, he returned empty-handed, bringing only some jewelry and a native to prove his point. The movement that Christopher Columbus made was due to his mistake about the size of Asia at that time because according to Ptolemy's team, the size of Asia is very large and the amount of water around it is small. Perhaps, if Christopher Columbus had detailed information about the waters, he would never have done this, and what saved him was the existence of the American continent on the way of these two continents. Christopher Columbus thought that the maximum distance between Europe and the eastern coast of China was three to four thousand kilometers: while this distance is more than 13 thousand kilometers (Donaldlen, 1992, pp. 35-39).

Since Christopher Columbus thought he had reached India, he named this region "India" and its people "Indian". This name is still applied to the people of this land: that is, the land of the West Indies. Christopher Columbus traveled to these areas three more times, and the Algerian archipelago before America, as well as the northern coast of South America, and on his last trip, he discovered a part of Central America, even as far as Panama. Visiting in 1506. Passed away. Regarding whether this continent was known until now or not, there are two points, and the fact that in old sources we come across petroglyphs obtained from South America and related to the Phoenician civilization. In these stone inscriptions, they considered themselves the children of Sidon, but they never returned to their land to convey the information obtained.

Another issue is that in some other writings, this theory has been proposed that Muslims were also able to reach this continent. It is said that the goat meat of the Caribbean islands is bitter. It is a Muslim saying. On the eve of the 16th century AD, following the movement of Christopher Columbus, a Florentine named "Amerigo Vespucci" - who was the representative of the Medici Bank of Florence in the city of Seville, Spain - made several exploratory trips to the New Continent region. He believed that there is another continent or world below the equator and these areas cannot be India. In this way, he used the term New World or New World for the first time. Later in 1507. A person named Valdis Müller, a professor of geography in Germany, published a map in which he drew a mass of land in the southern part of the New World. He concluded that the passage should be named after the person who identified it. Therefore, it was named Latin America after the original name of Amerigo Vespucci. But he is the new map in 1513 AD. He printed and published it took this name from it and called that region the unknown region. While only the southern regions of this continent were named America, later this name was used for all the central and northern regions of the new continent. The name of Christopher Columbus was also given only to a small

area called Colombia in South America (Burstein, 1991, pp. 291-299).

In 1512 AD, another person named "PoncheDoleon" on his journey to the West of Florida and a year later reached Balboa and passed through the purgatory of Panama. He was the first Spaniard who looked at it from the area of Central America, the purgatory of Panama, and found another huge ocean. At this time, many efforts were made to find a way through the land to reach the new ocean, but because the Panama Strait had not been dug at that time, as a result, the idea of bypassing the American continent through the south was created in the minds. Finally, a person named "Ferdinand Magellan" who had gone to the Spanish court from the sea of Portugal, with the equipment and facilities he had at his disposal, tried to compete with Portugal and obtain the goods of the eastern agents, to do this and show that reaching the East It is possible through the west. For this, the headquarters in America allowed Magellan to renew his forces and organization. Malajan set off with five ships from Spain and from the same routes that were previously determined, and with about 230 to 240 people who were with him, he traveled all the southern coasts of South America and finally reached a strait of 500 to 600 kilometers. After crossing this strait and entering the ocean, it moved to the north and then to the east. This strait is the same strait that is now called the Strait of Magellan after him. This huge ocean that Magellan found, since it had no name and Magellan saw it as calm and undisturbed, called the Pacific Ocean. Magellan's move to the east was accompanied by many problems, including sailors' and crew's revolts, but because he was a resourceful and cruel person, suppressed the aforementioned rebellions and continued his movement towards the east until he finally reached the Philippines and was killed in a conflict with the natives of the region. It is said that the presence of Muslims and the incitement of the natives of the region by Muslims caused the death of Magellan. His work did not stop when Magellan was killed, but his deputy named "Sebastiano Delcane" was assigned to continue Carmagellan. Despite all the problems that were in his way, Oba managed to get close to the sea area of China and by crossing the Indian Ocean, he moved to the east and west coasts of Africa and finally returned to the port of Madrid, Spain, where he had started his initial movement. It was the first ship that practically showed that the earth was spherical. Although at the end of this trip, only one ship and 18 people remained from all those ships and people, they were able to bring with them a lot of spices and refreshments and what was necessary to compensate for the damages. It started and ended in 1523 with Sebastiano Delcane's movement, he practically showed that the earth is spherical and this movement was a turning point in invalidating the hypotheses of the flatness of the earth.

With Spain's access to the East and the presence that Portugal had in the West from the past, i.e. the area of Brazil, there was intense competition between these two countries, and finally, the differences between these two countries were resolved by the Pope's arbitration. Since the Pope was not a geographer, he divided the land between Spain and Portugal based on an imaginary line. This hypothetical line was drawn in such a way that according to it a part of Argentina and Brazil, and what was in the east became Portugal, and what was in the west of this hypothetical line became the government of Spain. However, the differences between these two governments were later resolved through a treaty called "Tradsilas". Based on this treaty, a colonial area of Spain and Portugal was separated from each other and Spain decisively dominated the west and Portugal dominated the east. The colonial rivalry between these two countries weakened Portugal. The presence of ancient civilizations and populous empires living in the east, such as the Ming Empire in China, the Gurgani Empire in India, and the Safavid Empire in Iran, provided difficult conditions for the Portuguese colonial

government in the east. In such a way that with the weakening of this country and the death of its king in 1580, Portugal became an annex of the Spanish Empire and both countries were under a single government (Shibani, 1979, p. 36-41).

Although the Portuguese were aggressive in the West, the expansion of Spanish colonial activities brought their movement under its influence. Especially since the Spanish government gained increasing power during the time of Charles V due to a series of hereditary marriages with the Austrian Empire. During the time of Charlemagne, the initial possession of the Central and South American lands was formed and the necessary conditions were created for the establishment of migration in the west. From there, the empire

Spain had a high population power, and with the union of the two great territories of Castile and Argonne and the suppression of the Muslims, it was able to achieve its internal unity, a part of its large population, which included unemployed people, adventurers, rioters, and bankrupt Spanish nobles. He encouraged seafaring and emigration. In addition, the Catholic Church, which was suffering from major religious differences in Europe, welcomed this move to invite the natives of the new regions to Christianity. Undoubtedly, this movement was also noticed by Spanish merchants. This movement took place while their primary goal was to reach the East and not the American continent. But in any case, the discovery of the new continent and the access to its pristine and abundant resources could create the necessary temptation for the Europeans. It is from this time that the colonization of the new continent begins. These actions are known by the personal activities of "Fernando Cortez", he is considered one of the first conquerors of the New Continent. Fernando Cortés was assigned to conquer Central and South America and the region of Mexico. His first action was to block the return path of his companions and make them understand that they should stay there, for this purpose he ordered the destruction of some of his ships. In terms of the civilization history of the Indian people of the region, it should be said that these tribes were known in terms of civilization in two areas. First, in Mexico, which included the Mayan and Aztec civilizations, these civilizations were in the copper and bronze age, and secondly, in the Hanubian America, in the area of Peru, which included the brilliant civilization of the Incas and also Mayas (Linton, 1979, pp. 603-605).

According to the comments made, the people of this region were waiting for the arrival of people from the other side of the waters or from the bottom of the ocean to save them, according to their old legends. For this purpose, in their first encounter with the Spaniards, these natives referred to them as their saviors, while the newly arrived invaders did their best to loot and plunder these civilizations. Two basic factors were effective in speeding up the movement of the invaders in conquering new lands despite their small support. First, the use of sparrows, because there were no sparrows in the American continent, and this animal could be considered as a strange creature for the inhabitants of those regions, and the second is the presence of firearms against their primitive weapons, which are certainly in the destruction of civilization and destroying the manpower of the natives was very effective.

In South America, another group led by figures such as "Francesco Pizarro" and "Almagro" was assigned to attack the Peruvian civilization. Prohman civilization was the civilization of the Incas that the Europeans were able to crush their great civilization between 1531 and 1533 using a few horses and several cannon chariots. The story of these two conquests, according to American Prescott in the 19th century, and according to the stories of those who participated in those wars, is one of the most interesting chapters of modern history. In Peru, the Spanish

captured a person named "Althualpaho", who had the position of the Inca Empire and had divided his land among his sons.

Pizarro and Almagro took advantage of this dispersion of political power and, after receiving huge amounts of gold and silver, did not fulfill their promise in exchange for the freedom of "Hualpaho" and mysteriously killed the emperor. Because the Catholic Church advised them not to spill blood on the ground, they strangled him destroyed his capital, and built new fortresses called "Lima" on the ruins of the Inca civilization to be their capital. The natives who represented this old civilization achieved great achievements in the field of buildings, works of art, etc. So that their roads were paved and they used a spiral staircase system in agriculture with these methods, they brought water to the high areas. For this purpose, the Spaniards destroyed their works of art, statues, and gold and silver objects, and by melting these works and turning them into gold and silver bars, they sent these huge reserves to the Spanish court. With the destruction of the Aztec, Mayan, and Inca civilizations, the Spaniards established a new European civilization in these areas (Lucas, 1998, p. 159). For this purpose, some people were sent to the administration of the colonies, among which Mendoza Del Soto can be mentioned. For this purpose, a center was formed in Spain. In the name of the Department of Colonial Affairs, which implemented these regions with the divisions in Central and South America. He brought under his control the native populations of the region by building bridges, constructing roads, and extracting mineral and even agricultural resources. One of the problems of the Spanish government was the Native Americans, because in terms of their spirit, since they were free people, they did not submit to Spanish slavery. The Spanish Empire, by propagating Christianity among them and sending its priests to the traders, merchants, and warrior nobles of these lands, tried to turn them into obedient and peaceful people using the magic of the cross, but the fierce resistance of the Indians and measures such as fleeing from The place of work, hiding in the depths of the forest and even committing suicide showed that the colonial yoke of the Europeans was weighing heavily on their necks.

The misbehavior of the Indians by the Spaniards caused people like Larcasas (Niazmand, 1971, p. 177). One of the issues that led to the transformation and mixing of population in these areas was that the Spaniards resorted to racial mixing to solve the problem of their labor force. Since the Spaniards were of Indo-European origin with a mixture of Semitic (Arabic) races and considering that the number of women who came with them to the new continent was small, the Spaniards married the native Indians of the region and thus by mixing white people and native Indians, a new generation was born, who were called mestizos (Renan, 1988, pp. 112-115).

But this issue also did not solve their manpower problem, so to meet their need, they thought of providing labor from the coast of Africa, and with the migration of blacks to this area in the form of the slave trade, the entry of the black element into America began in 1492. In America, due to the birth of blacks, their population was gradually formed, and even hybrid populations were formed from the mixing of blacks with whites and reds. Black people, who were calm and had high physical strength, were used in the development of colonial works and agricultural activities and served the colonial interests of Spain. The discovery and colonization of the American continent brought the Spanish government to the peak of greatness in the 16th century, and this country became the largest and most dominant empire in the world in that century. The size of the empire and the increase in economic power in terms of the support of American gold and silver bullion and the superiority of Spain in the military field allowed this government to play a major role in international affairs. Even this government did not allow other European powers to have any trade relations with

their colonies and possessions. The issue of trade monopoly and colonial domination over Central and South America left long-term effects. The names that were given to the lands of South and Central America express the economic motives of the European invaders: Names such as Argentina, meaning the land of silver, or Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, meaning the rich coast, are fascinating.

In 1545, Spain's domination of large silver mines in Potosí, Peru had beneficial effects on this country. This colonial dominance, on the other hand, led to the spread of the Spanish language in all of Central and South Africa, except Argentina and Brazil, which were Portuguese colonies and the Portuguese language was prevalent there (Kalmat, 1386, pp. 347-349), which in itself expresses cultural influence. This is the country. The Spaniards in 1544 AD. They brought the printing press to Mexico and in the middle of the 16th century, they divided their American possessions into two parts of the great viceroyalty, Mexico and Peru. These were also divided into 22 dioceses. The Spanish also established a university in each department, such as the University of Lima in 1551 and the University of Mexico in 1553 A.D. In this way, the Spaniards called the New World New Spain, and since they were representatives of Catholic Christianity, their colonies also remained Catholic. Most importantly, in economic and social dimensions, the agricultural system transferred their feudalism to these areas: in such a way that the Spanish military aristocracy turned into a landed aristocracy, this issue became the main factor in the economic progress and political backwardness of the Spanish colonies compared to other American colonies in the future (Lucas, 1998, p. 159).

8. Emergence of new powers after discoveries

Countries such as Portugal, Spain, and the Netherlands took an early lead in exploration and colonization, propelled by unique circumstances. However, their global influence waned as internal conflicts emerged, enabling latecomers like France and England to capitalize on the lessons learned from the Portuguese and Spanish experiences. Post-civil wars, France and England intensified their focus on exploration, initially following conventional paths before transitioning into more aggressive colonial endeavors. Exploiting occupied regions for resources and utilizing the local population as a source of slave labor became a common practice. By asserting dominance over native populations, they facilitated the transfer of wealth back to their homelands. This shift in approach contributed to the longevity and extent of their colonization compared to other nations. The consequential impact was a transformation in demographics, fostering ethnic diversity in these emerging colonies. England, in particular, stood out as the preeminent colonizing country globally until the mid-20th century.

9. Effects of geographical discoveries

In the 15th century, certain changes occurred in Europe. To some extent, these developments were the continuation of the process that had started before, and they were influential and fundamental in the developments of the following centuries; Because it was the beginning of the emergence of the phenomenon of colonialism and course, the continuation of the warring process between the West and the East that had started in the past centuries and led to discoveries in the 15th century due to special global relations. The conquest of Constantinople in 1453 AD/860 AD caused the communication of Europeans to be blocked by land; Therefore, Europeans sought to discover waterways to access the East, and this caused the growth of navigation and geographical discoveries; including the discovery of the American continent in 1492 AD/900 AD. This Exploration had a commercial and religious aspect. According to Lewis, these

events were the result of the confrontation between Islam and Christianity. Since the time of the Prophet, Islam has always been known as a neighbor, rival, and enemy of Christianity. Islam had a vision of global unity and had spread to all the continents of Asia, Europe, and Africa. But on the contrary, Christianity remained a European religion. For a long time, Islam was present in Spain and southern Italy as well as Russia and the Balkans and threatened Europe. Europeans were afraid of the advance of Islam. The advance of Islam in Europe was carried out in three periods: the first wave in the 8th century, when Spain and southern Italy were conquered, which also reached parts of France; The second wave, when the Muslim Mongols dominated Eastern Europe and Russia, and the third wave, During the establishment of the Ottoman Empire and the conquests of this country in Europe, the peak of which was in 1453 AD/860 AD, that is, the time of the conquest of Constantinople. For several centuries, the threat to Europe from Islam had a military and religious aspect and was a threat to conquer Europe and change its religion. The trend towards Islam continued in different regions of Asia, Europe, and Africa, and on the other hand, Christianity tried to make up for its failures, and its most important response was the establishment of the Crusades. But with the conquest of Constantinople, Christianity received a fatal blow and the West entered into a great struggle. The capture of Constantinople and the domination of the Muslim Ottomans over the Mediterranean also had a tremendous impact on European trade; therefore, he made them struggle.

The goal of the West was to reach the East and carry out retaliatory measures. It was in this direction that the Europeans conquered America. Of course, shortly before that, the Europeans won over the Muslims in Granada and expelled the Muslims from all over Spain; That is, these events were in the same direction and religious flow. A few years after the discovery of America, when Vasco da Gama arrived in India and claimed to have come in search of Christians and spices, he was referring to the dual aspects of the voyages of discovery. The journeys, on the one hand, were a movement for the global religious war, and on the other hand, had a commercial purpose. These discoveries provided the basis for European colonization in the countries of Asia, Africa, and America. Noteworthy point the division of the world by the Pope in 1494 AD/902 AD, between Spain and Portugal, was on the condition of Christianizing the people of those lands and spreading Christian propaganda. It was after that that the motivation to spread Christianity in the East spread and many missionaries, along with ambassadors, merchants, and colonists, came to the East and began to work. However, the internal developments of Europe in the 16th century are considered to be one of the other important factors for sending religious missionaries to the East. The Renaissance laid the foundation for religious movements and reforms in Europe. In Germany, Luther (1520 AD/926 AD) and in France Calvin (1530 AD/936 AD) started religious reforms and opposed the religious system. Thus, the unity of Christianity in Europe was lost, which had two consequences.

The three religions and sects of Lutheran, Colony, and Anglican were created in front of the Catholic religion, and reforms were started within the Catholic religion; That is, the principles of Catholic beliefs were modified and regulated, and sects were also created within the Catholic religion and in support of it. Old religious groups and sects were revived, such as the Franciscans and Dominicans and some other sects, including most of the Jesuits, were created at this time. They helped the popes of the 16th century to spread Catholic beliefs and fight against the basis of the Protestant religion. They did not stop at Europe and demanded it, spread Christianity all over the world. This group was less inclined to religious life and monasticism and was more in favor of participation and activity in global affairs

and considered their religion to be general and universal. They assumed themselves to be part of the international organization headed by the Pope. They paid special respect to the Pope; So that Protestants and even other Catholics condemned their practice. The purpose of the Jesuits was the general interests of the Catholic religion and their slogan was that they fight to increase the glory of God. The Jesuits went to different areas of the world with the first colonists. Among them, they came to the east with the Portuguese colonists and converted thousands of people to Christianity. In these religious reforms, Spain, France, and Austria officially became Catholic. Germany became half Protestant and half Catholic and England became Protestant and separated its church from the Pope and created the new Church of England. Holland became Protestant. Spain and Portugal were the first colonial countries and pursued the support of Christianity more seriously; especially after in 1494 AD/902 AD, the Pope divided the world between them on the condition that they defend and propagate Christianity. In Spain, an alliance had been established between the sultans and the pope, both of whom supported each other. Charleston was a fanatical Catholic and bequeathed to his son Philip II that he "loves and respects religious matters above all else." Philip was thinking about defending the Catholic religion all his life and he was working to preserve and support the religion both inside his territory and in foreign countries. He expelled the Muslims who were engaged in agriculture in the land of Granada (during the years 1567 to 1571 AD/984 to 988 AH) and at the same time, he also made it difficult for the Protestants. From this time, Spain became a political, economic, and religious rival of England It was counted. Due to internal and external religious and political conflicts, France did not have the opportunity to establish colonies in the East; but when Henry IV issued the Edict of Nantes on religious freedom in 1598 AD/1007 AD, it became an important factor in encouraging the French to make geographical discoveries. In France, Christian congregations were stronger, and after the rise of Protestants and the decline of the Pope's influence in Europe, more priests turned to France. On the other hand, in the 16th century, Pope Leo X transferred some of the rights of the French Church to the King of France, and the King could intervene in some religious matters. These factors made the Catholic priests of France a base to implement their goals. In France, Christian clergy had a special position, they were considered the first class of the country. Even in the 17th century, it was only this group that formed a class, and this shows the importance of religious issues there. In Europe, the 17th century was the peak period of struggle and conflict between Catholics and Protestants. France found a more important and prominent role in this field. This was due to the massacre of Protestants in the event of San Bartholomew in 1572 AD/989 AH and the involvement of political rulers in religious affairs, especially in the fight against Protestants. Among the rulers, Richelieu was very serious in opposing the Protestants, so in the 17th century, France claimed to spread and support the Catholic religion.

10. Conclusion

The article underscores that European explorations were driven by diverse motivations, including the quest for trade routes to the East, the acquisition of advanced navigation tools, and the development of well-equipped ships. Portugal and Spain are highlighted as the initial global conquerors due to their relative internal and external stability. Notably, under the leadership of Henry the Navigator, Portugal made significant strides in exploration, reaching the coast of Guinea in the 15th century and Vasco da Gama's voyages leading to the colonization of India. However, the Portuguese lacked a strategic approach to

colonization, leading to their eventual surrender to rivals in exploration and colonization.

Christopher Columbus, backed by King Ferdinand of Spain, embarked on explorations in 1492, reaching a land he believed to be India. This westward journey resulted in the misnaming of the discovered land as India. Subsequent explorers like Amerigo Vespucci and Ferdinand Magellan played crucial roles, with Magellan discovering the Pacific Ocean and the Philippines before being killed. Sebastiano Delcano continued Magellan's mission, ultimately reaching the port of Madrid with 18 survivors.

Intense competition between Portugal and Spain prompted the intervention of the Pope, who delineated a hypothetical line dividing eastern regions to Portugal and western regions to Spain. This marked the beginning of a new era defined by geographical discoveries and the subsequent emergence of colonialism. Over time, Portugal and Spain lost their colonial dominance to other European nations, such as the Netherlands, France, and England, which gradually gained superiority in colonial competitions in the East and West, shaping the colonial landscape of the new era.

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